

Remarks

Claims 1-69 are pending in the present application as of the mailing of the Office Action.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-69 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,924 to Ainsbury et al.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP 2143.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a computer-implemented method of locating one or more remote databases containing a desired type of data, comprising the steps of:

searching for at least one remote database accessible via a network of computer systems;
determining whether each remote database found during the searching is comprised of the desired type of data, wherein the desired type of data is time series data; and
storing location information for each remote database found during the searching if the remote database is comprised of the desired type of data.

Ainsbury does not disclose each and every element of amended Claim 1. Specifically, Ainsbury does not disclose the step of determining whether each remote database found during the searching is comprised of the desired type of data, wherein the desired type of data is time series data. Therefore, Claim 1 is not obvious because Ainsbury does not teach each and every element of Claim 1, and the Office Action does not articulate how or why it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ainsbury to determine if the desired type of data is time series data.

Applicant notes that original Claim 5 has been amended to delete the limitation that “the data that has been used in the predetermined analysis is time series data,” which was added to Claim 1. In discussing claim 5, the Office Action states that Ainsbury discloses this limitation and cites col. 7, lines 42-67 to col. 8, lines 1-49. Office Action at 4. A close examination of the cited passage from Ainsbury however, reveals that it does not, in fact, disclose the limitation that the “the data that has been used in the predetermined analysis is time series data.” Rather the cited passage simply discusses the use of “an information store,” the assignment of metadata to the individual information elements stored in the data store, and the advantages associated therewith. Ainsbury does not disclose, in the cited passages or elsewhere, the step of “determining whether each remote database found during the searching is comprised of the desired type of data, wherein the desired type of data is time series data.” Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art.

Independent claims 49, 50, 68 and 69 also have been amended to add the limitation that “the desired type of data is time series data,” and these claims are now allowable over the cited prior art for the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2 – 48 all depend on Claim 1, as amended, and are allowable because Claim 1 is allowable.

Certain of the Claims that depend on Claims 1, 50 and 68 are allowable for the following additional reasons. With respect to Claim 38-40, as amended, the cited passages from Ainsbury (col. 10, lines 50-67 to col. 11, lines 1-23, col. 13, lines 21-67 to col. 14, lines 1-59) do not disclose the steps of determining whether the time series of data is redundant of a series of data

for which information has already been stored (Claim 38, as amended), not storing information about the time series of data if the time series of data is redundant of a series of data for which information has already been stored (Claim 39), and storing information about the time series of data if the time series of data is not redundant of a series of data for which information has already been stored (Claim 40).

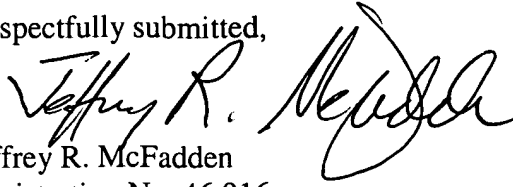
With respect to Claim 41, the cited passages of Ainsbury (col. 13 lines 21-67 to col. 14 lines 1-59, col. 8, lines 50-67 to col. 9, lines 1-49) do not disclose the steps of “determining whether a correlation exists between at least some of the data of the desired type contained in the at least one remote database and at least some of the data of the desired type contained in a predefined data set, and if the correlation exists, storing an indication of the correlation in association with the stored location information for the at least one remote database.”

The Office Action states that with respect to claims 1, 20-22, 27-33, 49-52 and 68-69, Ainsbury discloses “searching for at least one database key identifies the at least on remote database accessible via a network of computer systems” Office Action at 2 (emphasis added). The underlined language in the preceding sentence, however, does not appear in claims 1, 20-22, 27-33, 49, 69-69. The language “a database key, wherein the database key uniquely identifies the at least one remote database,” is contained in claim 50, and it is assumed that the Office Action’s discussion of a “database key [that] identifies the at least one remote database” pertains to Claims 50 –52.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this case is now in condition for an immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If any issue remains unresolved, Applicants’ counsel would appreciate the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey R. McFadden
Registration No. 46,916

WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC
Post Office Box 7037
Atlanta, Georgia 30357-00378
Telephone (336) 721-3730
Facsimile(336) 726-8061

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